

National Weather Service, Juneau, Alaska

COOP Corner



Special points of interest:

- New Format
- Getting “Flakey”
- What do Wynn and Kim have in common?
- How oysters and weather make a perfect match



New News — New Format

The newsletter will be going to a more slimming look. The articles by Cory on the interesting and sometimes weird forecasting techniques will no longer be included in the COOP Corner. Not to worry, you will still be able to find these great articles and more in the issues of the *Cloudburst Chronicle*.

The *Cloudburst Chronicles* is a publication that is written by staff members at the Juneau Weather Forecast Office and may also include contributions from the Yakutat and Annette Weather Forecast Offices. Previous issues can be found at: [http://](http://pajk.arh.noaa.gov/newsletter.php)

pajk.arh.noaa.gov/newsletter.php. The *Cloudburst Chronicle* is also mailed out to all COOP observers, spotters and other weather interested folks.

Another publication is the National Cooperative Newsletter at: <http://www.weather.gov/om/coop/>. This link also has some great links for observers.

This issue of the COOP Corner and all previous issues can be found at: <http://pajk.arh.noaa.gov/coopnews.php>.

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Photos from the Field



I do love getting photos from Ken, but I would really love to see more photos from around other places in SE. So, brush off those camera's and get clicking! Include where and when the picture was taken and any other information about the picture you want to include and email then to me at: Kimberly.vaughan@noaa.gov

Left: Check out the snow shower over Douglas Island on October 27, 2010. Picture by Ken on Shelter Island.

Time for Training: Getting Flakey

Winter is at our front door, with temperatures starting to drop below freezing with the threat of snow. For a few up in Haines, the snow shovels have already been put to use. Here are some things to do to be ready for accurate snow measuring.

Find your snow board and snow stick. Check to make sure they are in good condition. For the few stations that have snow stakes get them installed back out in the ground.

When to report snow: Any time it falls!

- If it falls and melts on contact...report a trace (T).
- If it falls and accumulates, and then melts before observation time...report the highest measured amount and make a note in remarks.
- Snow falls, but it is windy and there are drifts. Take an average and make a note in remarks.

What to do BEFORE it snows.

- Remove the funnel and inner tube from the can, take them inside for safe keeping...we still need them.
- Place the snow board out by the rain gauge, in a flat and undisturbed area.

No snow to measure...no problem. What to do if the wind was so strong not much collected in the bucket, but you know more

than that fell. Take a core sample:

1. Find an area of the average depth of the new snowfall for the day.
2. Take the empty can and push it into the snow, open side down.
3. Take a flat object, maybe the snow board, and slide it under the can. Turn can right side up. Melt snow as usual.

A good source for how to measure snow can be found on the National COOP site for the NWS at <http://www.weather.gov/om/coop/snowguid.htm>

Here is a trick, when you need an extra hand measuring the melted snow.

1. Melt the snow in the can.
2. Take the funnel and place it upside down on a flat surface, then place the inner tube inside the small end of the funnel (picture A).
3. Carefully and slowly pour the melted snow into the inner tube. If there has been a lot of snow, do not over fill. It may take a couple of pourings, measuring, emptying of the inner tube to get a complete total (picture B).
4. Ensure inner tube is level before taking the measurement and if using warm water to melt snow, be sure to subtract that water amount from the total. (picture C).

How to report precipitation, snowfall and snow depth.

- Precipitation: measure to the nearest hundredth of an inch (0.00).
- Snowfall: measure to the nearest tenth of an inch (0.0).
- Snow Depth: measure to the nearest whole inch (0).

All of the columns need to be filled out with either the amount measured or an "M" for missing. Not filling in a column leaves the data in question to whether it is missing or that none occurred.



The BILLS have it!!

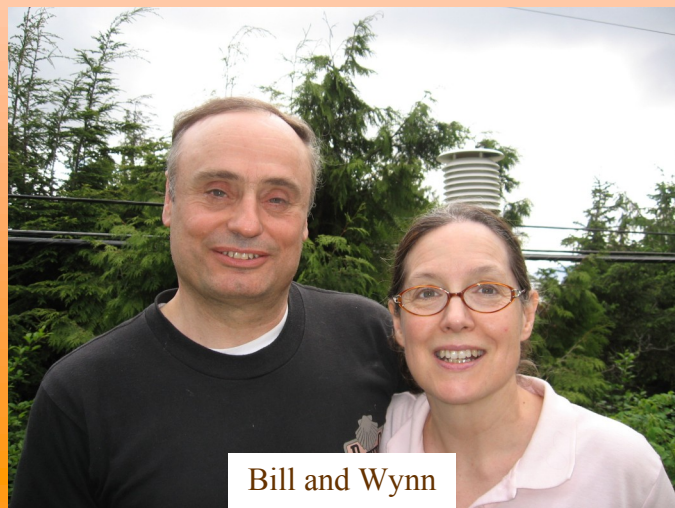
July Observer of the Month—Ketchikan 12.8N

After the very sad loss of our observer at Ketchikan 14N, the Hopkins jumped right in and filled a void for the Ketchikan community.

Bill and Wynn had been very diligent weather spotters and when asked to become a COOP, they eagerly accepted. There was no need to stress how important the weather could be, Bill had just retired as a boat captain. Years of watching the

weather and being directly affected by it, has made Bill a great describer of the weather. He has used these skills to write several books about his adventures and that enthusiasm spills over to his COOP duties. Here is a sample of an entry in remarks: *“Rain showers overnight, but none during the day. Sky has been largely overcast with mid-level stratus. Between 1200 - 1430 we had warm sunshine, but it has since*

become solidly overcast again. No shower activity is in sight. A dry Fourth! “ Thank you to two great people and great observer.



Bill and Wynn

August Observer of the month-Port Alexander

Bill and Kim in Port Alexander continue to do a great job taking observations. They have the added duty of taking observation throughout the day as an A-Paid station. As an A-Paid station they report the wind, sky, temperature, dew point, pressure and weather. Their reports help us with our forecasts and help support the aviation and marine community operating in their area.

They have a great vantage point, with a view of the inner bay. It's only a short walk to get a view of Chatham Strait.



Kim and Bill

Observer Spotlight: Oyster Weather By: Nikki Becker

From the northern portions of Clarence Strait on Blashke Island, Don provides daily weather reports and oysters to Southeast Alaska residents.



Don ventured up to Alaska from the Puget Sound area of Washington state thirty years ago to live a bush-style life and that is what he has done. As we all know, we need an income to live off, so he started an oyster farm on a remote island soon after moving to Alaska. It is a good thing that his hobby is carpentry because he had to build everything himself. Don's oysters can be purchased as far east as Pennsylvania, which is over 3,500 miles away.



Canoe Lagoon Oyster Company work stations built by Don.

When he is not running his successful business with his partner, Sharon, and Bobbins, the cat, he is monitoring the weather and building things. Don has been a COOP observer since April 2001. His reports fill in a gap in northern Clarence Strait where mariner's can experience hurricane force winds (greater than 74 miles per hour). The wind and the rain come in handy for Don, providing him with power and drinking water.

We look forward to another decade of detailed weather reports from Don on Blashke Island.

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Check us out at: <http://pajk.arh.gov>